

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/062,583

Applicant(s)

VOHRA ET AL.

Examiner

Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen

Art Unit

1754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 11-20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1754

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Agarwal on April 30, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (amended): A process for recovery of low sodium salt from bittern, comprising the steps of:

- a) treating the bittern with calcium chloride solution to produce insoluble calcium sulfate,
- b) separating calcium sulfate of step (a) to obtain desulphated bittern,
- c) evaporating the desulphated bittern of step (b) in solar pans until a density ranging from 30 to 33° Bé is reached, with deposition of salt in pans,
- d) removing the salt deposit in step (c) to obtain concentrated desulphated bittern,
- e) feeding the concentrated desulphated bittern of step (d) to carnallite pans and continuing the [solar] evaporation to [solid] cause the deposition of a solid mixture,
- f) separating the solid mixture of step (e) constituting a mixture of sodium chloride and carnallite ( $\text{KCl} \cdot \text{MgCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) from carnallite pans for obtaining liquid bittern,

Art Unit: 1754

g) treating with stirring the solid mixture of step (f) with water for a period of 20-60 minutes to produce low sodium salt [composition] solid and a liquid bittern in equilibrium with low sodium salt, containing mainly magnesium chloride with dissolved sodium chloride and potassium chloride,

h) separating the solid [product] from the liquid bittern of step (g) by centrifugation, and obtaining supernatant liquor,

i) drying the solid [product] of step (h) at a temperature ranging from 90°-130°C to obtain low sodium salt,

j) recycling the [liquid bittern of step (g) in] supernatant liquor of step (h) to the carnallite pans for recovery of sodium and potassium salt in the presence of an additive, and

k) treating the dried product of step (i) with an alkali salt and an additive to obtain an iodised low sodium salt.

Claim 4 (twice amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein recovery of low-sodium salt is enhanced by recycling the [bittern of step (g) in] supernatant liquor of step (h) to the carnallite pans.

Claim 6 (twice amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (a) the source for bittern [are] is seawater, [or] sub oil origin, or [and] bittern having a low sulphate content.

Art Unit: 1754

Cancel claim 10.


Claim 11, line 2 of claim, before "potassium chloride", insert --ratio of--.

Claim 17, line 3 of claim after "recycled", delete "in" and insert --to the--.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1356. The examiner is currently on Part time schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Stan Silverman can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed (571) 272-1700.

  
Ngoc-Yen M. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1754

nmn  
May 3, 2004